

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 /183 W
-----106997 240746Z /16

R 231644Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7037
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05404

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJ: FRG REACTION TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S PRESS
CONFERENCE ON LOS

REF: STATE 70035

1. EMBOFF PROVIDED DR. EITEL (LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE-
FOREIGN OFFICE) WITH A COPY OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S
PRESS STATEMENT AND DISCUSSED FRG REACTION AND ATTITUDES
TOWARD UPCOMING LOS NEGOTIATION. EITEL SAID THAT THE
FRG WAS VERY MUCH IN ACCORD WITH THE GENERAL THRUST OF
THE US POSITION AS IT IS DESCRIBED IN THE AMBASSADOR'S
STATEMENT. THE GERMANS CONTINUE TO HOLD THE VIEW THAT
AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SEABED MINING
WILL BE THE SINE QUA NON FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION
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AND THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE "THIRD WORLD" TO BE
REASONABLE.

2. EITEL SAID THAT AFTER A RAPID READING OF THE
STATEMENT HE HAD ONLY NOTED ONE NEW FACET IN THE US
APPROACH AND THAT WAS A MENTION PUBLICLY (HE SAID HE
THOUGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME) OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A

"MINI TREATY" AMONG THE LIKE-MINDED, IF THE SEVENTH NEGOTIATING SESSION ENDED IN FAILURE. THE ALTERNATIVE OF A MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENT AMONG LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE LOS TREATY IS ONE WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN FRG CIRCLES FOR SOME TIME.

3. THE ONE DOUBT THAT DR. EITEL HAD CONCERNED THE US TACTICAL APPROACH. HE SAID THAT HE AND OTHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT SOMETIMES HAD THE FEELING THAT USG STATEMENTS PRIOR TO MEETINGS WERE CONSIDERABLY HARDER IN TONE THAN SUBSEQUENT US POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS AT THE MEETINGS THEMSELVES. HE CITED THE LAST INTERSESSIONAL AS A CASE IN POINT. HE SAID THAT, WHILE THIS MAY BE THOUGHT OF AS AN EFFECTIVE TACTICAL APPROACH BY SOME, HIS PERSONAL FEELING WAS THAT IT PROVED TO BE CONFUSING. HE ADDED HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AND THEY SHARED HIS VIEW THAT SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDING.

4. IN RATING THE CHANCES OF A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION, EITEL SAID HE WAS PERHAPS A BIT MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN BEFORE AND FELT THERE WAS A 50/50 CHANCE OF AGREEING ON A SATISFACTORY TREATY.
STOESSEL

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